

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph appearing at page 3, line 26 – page 4, line 1, with the following revised paragraph:

FIG. 2B is a schematic enlarged partial cross sectional view of ~~a adsorbent~~ an adsorbent material portion of the canister shown in FIG. 2A;

Please replace the paragraph appearing at page 12, line 5 – page 13, line 12, with the following revised paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 3, the active carbon granules 51a of the active carbon part 51 of the filter 50 are evenly distributed in the direction generally perpendicular to the air flow direction. Alternatively, as shown in FIG. 5, the active carbon granules 51a can be distributed such that high density sections 51b of the active carbon granules 51a and low density sections 51c of the active carbon granules 51a are alternately arranged in the direction generally perpendicular to the air flow direction. In the high density section 51b, the active carbon granules 51a are arranged to have a high granule density (first granule density). In the low density section 51c, the active carbon granules ~~51~~ 51a are arranged to have a low granule density (second granule density) that is lower than the high granule density. In the low density sections 51c, the pressure loss is reduced at the time of flowing the atmospheric air through the filter 50 in comparison to the high density sections 51b. Thus, the atmospheric air introduced from the atmospheric port 46 into the filter chamber 43 can easily pass the low density sections 51c of the active carbon granules 51a. At this time, the atmospheric air introduced from the atmospheric port 46 passes through the atmosphere-side unwoven fabric 52, so that foreign particles contained in the atmospheric air are effectively removed by the atmosphere-side unwoven fabric 52. The air, which contains the fuel vapor that has passed the adsorbent material portions 44, 45, is moved mostly by diffusion and thus has a relatively small flow rate. Thus, even in the case of the above distribution where the high and low density sections 51b, 51c of the active carbon

granules 51a are alternately provided, the air, which contains the fuel vapor, slowly passes the filter 50, so that the fuel vapor is adsorbed and is removed by the active carbon granules 51a of the active carbon part 51. Thus, by alternately providing the high and low density sections 51b, 51c of the active carbon granules 51a in the active carbon part 51 of the filter 50, the reduction of the pressure loss of the introduced atmospheric air can be balanced with the adsorption and removal of the fuel vapor.

Please replace the paragraph appearing at page 13, line 20 – page 14, line 3, with the following revised paragraph:

The air, which has passed the adsorbent material portions 44, 45 of the canister 10, is then introduced into the filter chamber 43 by diffusion. The air introduced into the ~~canister~~ filter chamber 43 contains the fuel vapor, which has not been adsorbed by the adsorbent material portions 44, 45. The flow rate of the air, which is guided through the filter chamber 43 and is released from the filter chamber 43 into the atmosphere through the atmospheric port 46, is relatively low, so that the air passes through the filter 50 at the low flow rate, and thus the fuel vapor contained in the guided air can be adsorbed and removed by the active carbon part 51 of the filter 50.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 2, with the following revised paragraph:

A canister of a fuel vapor processing apparatus according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to FIG. 11. The canister 10 of the sixth embodiment is similar to that of the fourth embodiment shown in FIG. 8 except the structure of the adsorbent material portion 45 received in the second receiving chamber 42. That is, the adsorbent material portion 45 is divided into a first adsorbent material sub-portion 45b and a second adsorbent material sub-portion 45c, and a separating filter 25 made of an unwoven material is interposed between the first sub-portion 45b and the second sub-portion 45c. Specifically, in the first sub-portion 45b, the active carbon granules 45a are filled between the adsorbent material holding

filter 23 and the separating filter 25. In the second sub-portion 45c, the active carbon granules 45a are filled between the separating filter 25 and the adsorbent material holding filter 24. The first and second sub-portions 45b, 45c are clamped by the adsorbent material holding filters 23, 24, which are urged against the first and second ~~sub-portion~~ sub-portions 45b, 45c by, for example, a spring (not shown).